

sins and to pray for clemency and forgiveness."

Do you think, Mr. Speaker, that Abraham Lincoln would understand why we are even debating in our Supreme Court the appropriateness of the words "under God" in our Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag?

I know that I quoted the words earlier, but I think that we need to hear them again. Abraham Lincoln said: "It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us than from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion, that we here, highly resolved that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this Nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom."

Mr. Speaker, I think that we face this discussion today because we would have forgotten from whence we came. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, I do not think that the newest generation has forgotten; I do not think they ever knew, because our textbooks have been bled dry of all of the references to our Christian heritage.

Mr. Speaker, I firmly believe that if the decision of this Supreme Court is grounded in the milieu in which our Declaration of Independence was written and our Constitution was written, they can reach no other conclusion but that the words "under God" in our Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag are completely appropriate, were completely anticipated by those who framed our Constitution, by the Roman Catholic who could not vote in Old Virginia or could not vote in Maryland, Charles Carroll, for whom Carroll County in Maryland is named and Carroll Creek that runs through Frederick City, Charles Keller a major architect of that establishment clause.

They did not mean, Mr. Speaker, that religion was unimportant in our country. What they wanted to accomplish is very clear in the words that they stated: "Make no law concerning the establishment of religion." They did not want the Congress to empower one religion over another so that it could oppress the other religions. Because, Mr. Speaker, our Founding Fathers had come here from countries in the British Isles and in Europe, almost all of which were ruled by a king or an emperor who claimed, and was granted, divine rights. So they came here in our Declaration of Independence saying that all men are created equal.

We read those words, Mr. Speaker, but we do not realize how important they were in that day and time, that all men are created equal. "No emperor or no king created above the others and endowed by their creator." And four times in the Declaration of Independence God is referred to, endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights. Our Founding Fathers came here to escape two tyrannies, Mr. Speaker. One was the tyranny of the Church and the other was

the tyranny of the Crown. On the continent, the Church was generally the Roman Church. In the British Isles, it was the Episcopal Church, and those countries empowered those Churches so they could if they wished oppress others, and they did.

When our Founding Fathers came here because of their resentment of that oppression in Old Virginia and in colonial Maryland, Roman Catholics could not vote. But when it came time to write the amendments to our Constitution, they recognized how important it was that we provide religious freedom to everybody, so they chose a Roman Catholic to be a major architect of that. It is no coincidence, I think, Mr. Speaker, that in the very first of these amendments, they addressed their concern that all people should be free to worship as they please, that they should empower no religion over another religion. They could not have imagined that we would interpret these words as requiring freedom from religion. They clearly meant them to assure freedom of religion.

I fervently hope, Mr. Speaker, that the Supreme Court reviews in their private meditations the origins of our country, the milieu in which the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were written, so that they can reach what I think is the only acceptable conclusion, and that is that our Founding Fathers clearly anticipated that a phrase like this would be very appropriate to our heritage and would be very helpful to our people.

Mr. Speaker, it is my prayer that we will not need to come to this Chamber again to talk about this kind of a subject, that the Supreme Court will make a decision that will set to rest the concern about the role of God in our country. No one religion should be empowered so it can oppress the others. But beyond that, all people are free to worship as they please, and religion is not an inappropriate subject in the public domain.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. HINCHEY (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of personal reasons.

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today after noon on account of personal reasons.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of business in the district.

Mr. ORTIZ (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for November 6 after 4:00 p.m. and today on account of official business.

Mr. WU (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legis-

lative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BLUMENAUER, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. FOLEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, November 12.

Mr. PENCE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FOLEY, for 5 minutes, today.

#### SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1066. An act to correct a technical error from Unit T-07 of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 1643. An act to exempt certain coastal barrier property from financial assistance and flood insurance limitations under the Coastal Barriers Resources Act and the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968; to the Committee on Resources and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

S. 1663. An act to replace certain Coastal Barrier Resources System maps; to the Committee on Resources.

#### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Mr. Trandahl, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.J. Res. 76. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2004, and for other purposes.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 53 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, November 10, 2003, at noon.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows: